

Message Text

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FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE

FOL RPT DAR ES SALAAM 1268 ACTION SECSTATE INFO CAPE TOWN
GABORONE LAGOS LONDON LUSAKA MAPUTO PRETORIA USIA WASHDC
USUN NY 23 MAR 78 QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAR ES SALAAM 1268

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY, LUSAKA ALSO FOR AMB YOUNG
USIA FOR IOP/M, IAA

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV SOPN RH TZ
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: PRESS COMMENT ON RHODESIAN INTERNAL
SETTLEMENT

1. TANZANIAN OPPOSITION TO SALISBURY SETTLEMENT WAS EMPHASIZED
IN EDITORIAL MARCH 23 IN TANGON - OWNED DAILY NEWS. EDITORIAL
SAID INSTALLATION OF TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT WAS A "TRAGIC
COMEDY." THE SO-CALLED EXECUTIVE COUNCIL INTO WHICH BISHOP
UZOREWA, NDABANINGI SITHOLE, AND JEREMIAH CHIRAU
WERE SWORN IN WILL NOT CONTROL THE ARMY, THE POLICE, THE PUBLIC
SERVICE OR THE CENTRAL BANK." EDITORIAL SAID THE THREE "HAVE
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IN EFFECT JOINED THE REBEL REGIME OF IAN SMITH." THEY WOULD
NOT BE ABLE TO BRING ABOUT A CEASE FIRE SINCE THEY HAVE NO
CONTROL OVER THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS. "ONE WOULD LIKE TO BELIEVE
THAT THIS DILEMMA WILL FORCE THEM TO RENOUNCE THEIR OATH OF
ALLEGIANCE TO THE ILLEGAL STATE OF RHODESIA IN THE REST
OF THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE IN THE SEARCH FOR AN INTERNATIONALLY-
RECOGNIZED SETTLEMENT." EDITORIAL SAID ANGLO-AMERICAN

PROPOSALS PROVIDED AN OPENING FOR THE THREE "NATIONALISTS" TO "BACK OUT OF THE SALISBURY AGREEMENT AND JOIN THE REST OF THE PEOPLE IN DEMANDING FROM BRITAIN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE PROPOSALS. OTHERWISE, THE THREE "NATIONALISTS" WILL HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED AS HAVING CROSSED THE RUBICON. THEY SHOULD KNOW, HOWEVER, THAT HISTORY HAS ALWAYS PUNISHED PEOPLE WHO BETRAY THEIR PEOPLE."

2. DAILY NEWS ALSO GAVE FRONT-PAGE ATTENTION TO WASHINGTON DATELINED STORY ON US DOUBTS ABOUT TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT IN RHODESIA. ARTICLE CITED STATEMENT BY DEPT. SPOESMAN TRATTNER THAT USG CONSIDERED THAT CRUCIAL QUESTIONS ABOUT AUTHORITY OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL REMAINED UNANSWERED AND WHETHER AGREEMENT AS A WHOLE PROVIDES FOR A ENUINE TRANSFER OF POWER.

3. COMMENT. AUTHORITY OF TANGOV EDITORIAL IS THIS TIME UNMISTAKEABLE. SOME OF PRESIDENT NYERERE'S COMMENTS TO CONGRESSMAN DIGGS MARCH 22 APPEARED VERBATIM IN PRINT. IN TANGOV VIEW IT IS STILL NOT TOO LATE FOR MUZOREWA, SITHOLE, AND CHIRAU TO REDEEM THEMSELVES BY RENOUNCING INTERNAL SETTLEMENT. ONCE BLOOD OF FREEDOM FIGHTERS AND RHODESIAN PEOPLE ON THEIR HANDS, HOWEVER, IT WILL BE TOO LATE TO BRING THEM BACK INTO THE FOLD. SPAIN

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